

Childers Statement on Amendment to Lift Drilling Moratorium

July 30, 2010

Washington, DC – Today, the House passed an amendment introduced by U.S. Rep. Travis Childers (MS-01) to lift the President's moratorium on deepwater drilling. The amendment was introduced as part of the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources (CLEAR) Act, which Childers voted against.

"The Deepwater Horizon oil spill has been a tragedy for the Gulf Coast, one we can ill afford as our nation works toward economic recovery. However, in the state of Mississippi, thousands of workers are employed by the deepwater drilling industry. Because of the moratorium these hard working Americans will struggle to make ends meet in an already difficult economic environment. The Gulf Coast, from Florida to Texas, is suffering from this disaster and in Mississippi we cannot afford to lose even more jobs due to this tragedy. The path to recovery from the Deepwater Horizon disaster will be long; we should not stand in the way of safe and responsible employers and the families they support.

"I'm proud to have joined Rep. Charlie Melancon of Louisiana in introducing an amendment to lift the moratorium on deepwater drilling for responsible actors who meet strict safety requirements for their drilling operations. I also applaud the reorganization of the ethics plagued Minerals Management Service by the Department of the Interior in the underlying bill. It is my hope that the new regulatory structure will be an effective tool for ensuring safe drilling practices so that lives are not lost and moratoriums are not needed."

A pro-gun, pro-life Mississippian, Congressman Travis Childers (MS-01) represents the First Congressional District in North Mississippi. He is a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition and serves on the House Agriculture and Financial Services Committee. Congressman Childers co-chairs the reestablished bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus and was appointed to the bipartisan Second Amendment Task Force. For more information, visit www.childers.house.gov

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